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MINUTES

OF THE

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OF THE

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

5-7 July 1984

Meeting held in Geneva, Switzerland

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WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

John Knox Centre
Geneva, Switzerland

5-7 July, 1984

1. OPENING ACTIONS

A. Introduction and worship

The meeting convened at 8.30 a.m. on Thursday, 5 July.

Opening worship was conducted by the Moderator. Morning worship on subsequent days was led by Archbishop Kirill and Ms Skuse.

B. Roll call

The General Secretary called the roll of those attending, presenting apologies from Patriarch Ignatios IV, Metropolitan Chrysostomos and Metropolitan Antonie. It was agreed to send good wishes to Metropolitan Chrysostomos who was recovering from a car accident in April.

C. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held at the Motel de Chavannes-de-Bogis, Geneva, 20-28 February 1984, having been previously circulated, were confirmed.

D. Adoption of agenda and timetable

The General Secretary introduced the draft agenda and timetable, which were adopted.

2. REPORT OF THE GENERAL SECRETARY

The General Secretary paid tribute to three ecumenical leaders who had died since the last meeting of the Executive Committee: the Rev. Dr Martin Niemöller, who had been a member of the Central Committee from 1948 and a WCC President from 1961-68; Prof. Edmund Schlink, who had done much for Faith and Order, particularly in relations with the Roman Catholic Church, and the Rev. Dr Benjamin Mays, an outstanding black church leader in the USA and a member of Central Committee from 1948-54.

A. Activities since February

The General Secretary spoke of work on a number of major concerns, including Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry; the study on "The Unity of the Church and the Renewal of Human Community", and ecumenical formation. He referred particularly to four concerns which had come out of the Assembly recommendations and reports: gospel and culture; justice, peace and the integrity of creation; spirituality; and the role and place of women in church and society. These had been fully discussed by staff, particularly during the Week of Meetings in May, and would be considered by the relevant Unit Committees during Central Committee. A series of meetings on resource sharing had helped to clarify the focus of future work in this area. Work was proceeding on an annual report of WCC activities, the first of which would be written by Leon Howell, who had written the popular report, "Acting in Faith".

B. Events and visits

In March leaders of the United Reformed Church (UK) had visited the WCC to see how they and the Council could work together more closely in the coming years. Other visitors had included Dr Janku, Director of Religious Affairs in the Government of the CSSR, and Dr Miklos, State Secretary for Religious Affairs in Hungary. In April CICARWS had celebrated its 40th anniversary, an event which would be recognized during Central Committee. In May the President and Secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches had come to discuss relations between the CCC and WCC and the serious situation in the Caribbean and Central America, particularly following events in Grenada in 1983.

Later that month the General Secretary had attended the Conference of his own church in Panama, which was celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Protestant Church in that country. The General Secretary had also attended the 50th anniversary of the Barmen Declaration of the Confessing Christians in Germany vis-à-vis the Nazi régime. He had pointed out that the Declaration put more emphasis on the confessing Church than on the penitent Church and had also stressed that it drew attention to the Church as the whole participating people of God. He had raised questions about how the Church should confess its faith today, for instance in issues of human rights and security and the unjust society of our time. In July he had spoken to the Executive Committee of the World Alliance of YMCAs, which was moving towards a much more active relationship with the WCC. He hoped to visit Korea in October for the 100th anniversary of the Protestant churches there, then to visit China on the invitation of the China Christian Council, and Japan for the opening of a conference on the search for peace in North-East Asia.

The most important event during the period had been the visit of Pope John Paul II on 12 June. Preparations for the visit, including the worship, the joint statement, and security and other practical arrangements, had taken up much staff time. In evaluating the visit,

the General Secretary underlined the fact of the visit itself, which indicated recognition of the importance of the WCC in the ecumenical movement and therefore encouragement for increased contacts between Roman Catholics and the WCC on all levels. The difference between this visit and the short courtesy visit of Pope Paul VI in 1969 showed the positive development of relationships since that time. In 1984 the Pope had not merely witnessed an act of worship but had taken part in it. His address and that of the General Secretary had set out clearly the positions of Rome and the Council and it was hoped that the joint statement would be of value in encouraging the work of the Joint Working Group and joint activities of Roman Catholics and others in different parts of the world. Following the service in the chapel, a private conversation had taken place among some twenty persons including staff, representatives of the Roman Catholic Church, the LWF, WARC and CEC, in the presence of a larger group including churches in Switzerland and world ecumenical organizations. (The joint statement and a report on the visit of Pope John Paul II appear as Appendices to the Minutes of the Central Committee, Geneva, July 1984.)

C. Public issues

The General Secretary referred to two outlines for study documents, prepared on the request of the Executive Committee in February, on "The Role of the WCC in International Affairs" and "Conflict between Religious Communities". A paper had also been prepared on developments in Southern Africa. Since the last meeting, staff had kept in contact with churches in the Middle East and Lebanon. The situation in Sudan had considerably deteriorated and, following visits from church leaders in Sudan, deep concern had been expressed to the President about developments, particularly the implementation of the law of Sharia and the virtual abrogation of the agreement which brought an end to the civil war between North and South.

With regard to the situation in Sri Lanka, there had been visits by Mr Koshy and Dr Weber; a recent meeting with representatives of the Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) and related agencies discussed plans for support to the churches and other groups. The WCC, through CCIA, had played a leading role in the conference of national and international Non-Governmental Organizations on Nicaragua and peace in Central America, held in Lisbon. Participants had committed themselves to act in solidarity with the people of Central America and to help build foundations for a just and compassionate society. A joint meeting with CCA on Indochina had provided an opportunity to evaluate the political situation in the region. The General Secretary drew attention to the joint declaration on 22 May by the heads of state of India, Mexico, Tanzania, Greece and Sweden on the urgency of nuclear disarmament. He had made a statement in support, using Assembly declarations on the subject.

* * *

In discussion Mr Stalsett stressed the importance of the General Secretary's statement on the 50th anniversary of the Barmen Declaration as a challenge to the member churches as they reflect on their role in today's world. Ms Abayasekera asked about the impact of the Pope's visit on local churches. In reply, the General Secretary spoke of the importance of the joint statement which called for local action together and the responsibility of the Executive and Central Committees to ensure its wide distribution. Archbishop Kirill and Mr Tolen emphasized the value of direct contacts between the WCC and government representatives from socialist countries concerned with church problems. Such dialogue led to greater mutual understanding and could help the situation of churches in these countries. The General Secretary agreed that these personal contacts made it possible to raise fundamental and concrete issues and to work on them. The General Secretary referred to committees which had been set up by two member churches in USA to examine their relations with the NCCC/USA and the WCC. Following the visit of its representatives, the United Methodist Church had given a resounding 'yes' to continued relationships. A delegation from the Presbyterian Church (USA) would be visiting Geneva later in the year. Dr McCloud hoped that the conversation could include not only WCC staff but also some non-staff persons from other member churches.

3. MODERATOR'S REPORT TO CENTRAL COMMITTEE

The Moderator introduced the report he proposed to present to the Central Committee. This emphasized the double role of members as delegates of their churches and as a Central Committee elected by the Vancouver Assembly. The report outlined the process of work since the Assembly and mentioned the new directors of sub-units who had taken up their duties during that time. The Moderator would pay tribute to the General Secretary as he ends his twelve years of service and speak of the responsibility of the Central Committee in electing a new General Secretary. In referring to the evaluation of the Vancouver Assembly, the report stressed the need to emphasize and make visible the oneness and wholeness of the Council and its work through the closer interrelation of programmes and more balanced funding through better sharing of resources. It also stressed the need for more communication and inter-action within the WCC, between it and the member churches, and among the member churches themselves, and referred to staff travel, team visits and the scholarships programmes as means to this end. The report concluded by emphasizing the importance of worship and the renewal of Christian and ecumenical spirituality, and highlighting the need for further discussion of three sets of questions: the concrete interpretation of "conciliar fellowship", the understanding of justice on which the WCC bases its ethical reflections and social and political commitment, and closer cooperation between the WCC and the Christian World Communions.

In discussion a number of amendments and additional points for inclusion in the report were suggested.

4. PUBLIC ISSUES

Mr Koshy reported on developments in a number of countries since the meeting of the Executive Committee in February.

A. Grenada

Elections had not yet been held and it was reported that President Reagan was planning a visit in October. CCIA would continue to keep the situation under review.

B. Sudan

In April the government had declared a state of emergency, claiming that both internal and external threats were undermining the unity and development of the country. Since then there had been an intensification of the application of Sharia (Islamic law), which was causing considerable anxiety to the churches. On the request of the churches the WCC had made representations to the government and had also had contacts with leaders in the south of the country. Staff had had discussions with the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International as well as with the Christian Council of Sudan.

Bishop Athanasios stressed the need to be concerned about the effect of Sharia not only on Christians but on the human rights of all people. Mr Koshy indicated that the Middle East Council of Churches had initiated a study on Sharia. A note might be brought to the next meeting of the Executive Committee on the nature of Sharia and its wider implications. It would also be one of the elements of the study document on "The role of religion in conflicts" (see p. 11, para. G).

C. Sri Lanka

Mr Koshy reported that in March the government of Sri Lanka seemed to have given up negotiations for political settlement in favour of tougher measures against the Tamils for reasons of "national security". In April many people had been killed by security forces in the north. The situation had been considered at a recent meeting of staff of the World Council and the Christian Conference of Asia and there would be further discussions with the churches of Sri Lanka.

Ms Abayasekera expressed appreciation for the visits to Sri Lanka of Mr Koshy and Dr Weber, and spoke of the deteriorating situation with the spread of tension to the south. Churches outside the country could be of great support both through the WCC and CCA and individually.

D. Southern Africa

Mr van Drimmelen presented a CCIA/PCR staff report and analysis of recent developments in Southern Africa, particularly the agreements between South Africa and Mozambique and Angola. South Africa was trying to present itself as a peace-maker in the region. However, its foreign policy could not be separated from events inside South Africa such as forced removals and constitutional changes designed to maintain white domination. The Accords with Mozambique and Angola had been forced upon these states by economic pressure and political and military destabilization, and although they might lead to peace on the borders of South Africa they did not affect the heart of the problem, the apartheid system. But the Accords and the visit of Prime Minister P.W. Botha to Europe had helped to improve South Africa's image in the rest of the world. It was proposed to call a small consultation of experts to consider the implications of these developments for future policy. The possibility of a staff visit to churches in the region was also under discussion.

In discussion Bishop Toth asked that a reference be included to two recent ecumenical meetings: the AACC General Committee in Zimbabwe and the African Christian Peace Conference consultation in Lusaka. Dr Tolen urged other African countries to support Mozambique and Angola which had borne the burden of the struggle against apartheid and for the independence of Namibia. Archbishop Makhulu spoke of the need to expose the lie that the situation inside South Africa is improving. Mr Stalsett suggested that Central Committee might take up again the question of the embargo on trade with South Africa, including arms and oil, and the international registration of ships.

It was agreed that the report should be referred to the Unit II Committee and revised in the light of discussions in the Executive and Unit Committee before being sent to the member churches.

E. Namibia

Mr Koshy indicated that, in view of the fact that 1984 marks the 100th anniversary of the colonization of Namibia and in the light of recent developments there, it was proposed that the Central Committee make a statement reaffirming its support for the Namibian churches. He presented a note giving background information for such a statement. It was agreed to refer the matter to the Unit II Committee.

F. Human Rights

Mr Koshy referred to a number of other situations which CCIA had continued to monitor, particularly with regard to human rights. These included Central America, the Philippines, Gabon, Malawi, Lesotho, New Caledonia and India. The WCC had participated in

work on the Convention on the Prohibition of Torture which had now been adopted by the UN Human Rights Commission and would be presented to the UN General Assembly. Mr Weingärtner hoped that member churches would encourage their governmental delegations to press for the implementation of the Convention.

5. PROGRAMME MATTERS

A number of documents on programme matters were introduced by the General Secretary and staff and referred to the Programme Sub-Committee.

At a later session Metropolitan Gregorios presented the report of the Programme Sub-Committee.

A. Theological Advisory Group

The Sub-Committee had discussed the staff report prepared in response to the request of the Executive Committee in February, and expressed general agreement concerning its content and orientation. It proposed that the title of the report should be changed to: "Theological Diversity and Coherence in the WCC". It expressed the hope that the Central Committee would regularly take up the concern of theological diversity in the WCC and recommended that, until other arrangements are made, this concern be lodged in the General Secretariat, including the question of funding for consultations. The Executive Committee accepted these recommendations.

The General Secretary indicated that the report would be presented to the Central Committee after discussion in the General Secretariat Committee on the basis of comments received from the Unit Committees. (The report, "Theological Diversity and Coherence in the WCC", appears in Appendix VII to the Minutes of the Central Committee, July 1984).

B. Ecumenical History

The Sub-Committee had received with appreciation the outline of the projected third volume of a history of the ecumenical movement. It showed the immense variety of ecumenical events and activities which have taken place since 1968, and the great difficulty of a comprehensive review and analysis of the history of the ecumenical movement during the last twenty years.

The Sub-Committee felt that a different approach should be attempted by inviting individual authors to write a series of monographs on specific aspects of the more recent ecumenical movement, such as unity, mission, dialogue, international affairs, etc. It also endorsed the project of an additional, more slender and rather descriptive volume on the history of the ecumenical movement, written by one or two authors.

Careful attention should be given in all monographs and in both volumes to the perspectives and contributions of women. The resources of the Communication Department should be fully utilized in the execution of the project.

Detailed plans for these publications should be brought to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, and an editorial committee should be appointed to oversee the publications.

In the light of the above proposals, the Executive Committee agreed that the consideration of a comprehensive third volume of ecumenical history be deferred for the time being.

C. Calendar of meetings

The Executive Committee in February 1984 had asked for this calendar to see the conjunction of the proposed meetings with possible team visits and with other forms of contact with the churches. The proposed meetings up to March 1985 showed that no systematic church visits had been proposed, although some meetings like the Unit II Committee meeting in January 1985 would include special visits to churches. Many meetings would be related to local and national churches. The Sub-Committee proposed:

- that no meeting should take place without information to member churches and councils in that area of the meeting;
- that members of Central Committee and delegates of the Assembly in that area should be informed, and their help enlisted in contacting local churches;
- that all meetings should try to have maximum possible contacts with local churches;
- that the next Executive Committee should be clearly informed about the nature, purpose and character of the proposed consultations and meetings and their relationship to member churches (including possible team visits), recognizing that meetings are not necessarily expressions of improved relationships and giving critical reflection to meetings as a means of improving relationships;
- that staff should also review and report to the Executive Committee concerning the heavy emphasis placed on consultations and meetings in relationship to other methods of working and suggest procedures for giving more careful attention to coordinated planning of consultations, meetings, etc.

The Sub-Committee felt that more attention should be given to RCL and Youth meetings and that these concerns should be expressed strongly to the Central Committee, realizing that this would require additional financial support.

With regard to the funding of RCL and Youth, the General Secretary pointed out that of the total WCC working budget of Sfr. 32 million, only Sfr. 6 million came unearmarked and this amount had to cover not only all the central operations but also a number of important sub-units, including Faith and Order, RCL and Youth. The Executive Committee would have to continue to struggle with this problem.

The Executive Committee accepted the proposals of the Sub-Committee.

D. Ecumenical Institute

Since the Bossey Board which normally considers the programme of the Ecumenical Institute had not yet been appointed, the proposed 1985 programme had been presented to the Programme Sub-Committee, and the relations between the Bossey programme and the programmes of the units indicated. The Sub-Committee expressed its appreciation for the proposed programme and the Executive Committee agreed to approve it.

E. Ideologies

Metropolitan Gregorios presented the document on Ideologies which had been prepared by staff on the request of the Executive Committee in February. He drew attention to the revisions made in the light of discussion in the Programme Sub-Committee. There would be two foci of work in this area: dialogue with people who identified themselves primarily in ideological terms, especially with Marxists, and analytical and critical study of ideologies themselves. It was proposed that dialogue be the responsibility of the Sub-unit on Dialogue but that critical work be lodged in Unit II. He presented the recommendations which it was proposed to submit to Central Committee.

Archbishop Kirill did not think the proposed structural change would solve the basic problem, which was the need for a realistic platform for dialogue with Marxists. He referred to the Church and Society Conference on "Faith, Science and the Future" which had provided an opportunity for Christians and Marxists to discuss the problems raised by the conference.

The Executive Committee agreed (with one opposing vote) to make the following proposals for the action of the Central Committee:

1. that the DFI be relieved of its responsibility of being the primary locus of programmatic expression for the Council's concern for ideologies;
2. that the Sub-unit be renamed "Sub-unit on Dialogue with People of Living Faiths" (Sub-unit on Dialogue);
3. that Unit II serve as the locus of responsibility for the WCC work on ideology during the next period, with the understanding that it will be administratively lodged in one of the sub-

units within Unit II and carried out in collaboration with other concerned sub-units of the Council;

4. that a staff task force on ideologies, drawn from across the units coordinate the work on ideologies;

5. that the need to mobilize resources and staff with special competence to carry out the different programmatic aspects of the concern for ideologies be considered;

6. that the location of the programme be reviewed in 1986 and that the General Secretary be requested to submit proposals then for future work as well as for administrative and staffing arrangements.

(The document on Ideologies appears in Appendix VIII of the Minutes of Central Committee, Geneva, July 1984).

F. Study document on the WCC's role in international affairs

The Programme Sub-Committee had considered the preliminary outline for a study document on the Public Role of the WCC in International Affairs. The Sub-Committee agreed with the general direction and the main elements of the document and asked that the following comments be taken into account in developing the study document:

1. The document should attempt to bring out clearly the theological rationale for the public role of WCC in international affairs and explain the basis and criteria on which actions are taken. The rationale for not making criteria more detailed also will have to be given.

2. The variety of situations in which our churches live and the differences in the possibilities that are open should be taken account of.

3. The biblical and theological affirmations for action in the socio-political field should be related to the insights gained in the various ongoing studies in the WCC.

4. The role of public statements in relation to the search for the fuller manifestation of the unity of the Church should be elaborated.

5. WCC's role in the UN system should reflect the specific contribution regarding the unity of humankind from the theological and ethical point of view.

6. The role of the media in the public perception of WCC's role in international affairs should be examined.

7. In developing the study document, especially those parts related to public speaking, collaboration should be maintained with the Communication Department.

Mr Stalsett suggested that more attention should be given to the relation of the WCC to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

The Executive Committee agreed that the outline and the comments made should be referred to staff and a fuller document be brought to the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

G. Outline for a study document on conflict between religious communities

The Programme Sub-Committee gave approval to the general direction of the study document, prepared in response to the request of the Executive Committee in February 1984, and made the following suggestions and comments:

1. It was suggested to have as title for the document: "Role of religion in conflicts", and to define the scope of the study.
2. The document should reflect a self-critical attitude on the part of the churches.
3. The following aspects should receive special attention:
   - erosion of the secular and the identification of the secular with the West;
   - use of religion in political processes and in influencing policies of governments;
   - growing lack of confidence in governments in many parts of the world by minorities, leading to opposition and conflict, making use of religion;
   - tensions resulting from new financial power acquired (from outside) by previously marginalized sections;
   - religious conflicts used by outside forces to destabilize countries.

The Executive Committee agreed to accept these suggestions and to refer the outline to staff for further work.

H. Resource Sharing

The Programme Sub-Committee had discussed the report on the Resource Sharing Consultation held at Bossey on 17-20 June 1984. It endorsed the direction taken towards developing an ecumenical commitment for resource sharing and noted the issues identified for future agenda. The Sub-Committee affirmed the consultation process outlined in the report to the Executive Committee in February 1984 and suggested that the planned world conference be held in the first half of 1986. Concern was expressed that the role of local churches be included in the resource sharing process.

The Executive Committee agreed to adopt the comments of the Programme Sub-Committee. It was noted that the report would be referred to the three Unit Committees and the Committee on the General Secretariat during Central Committee.

6. APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND AFFILIATION

Dr Talbot presented the applications for membership and affiliation and the recommandations of the Nominations Sub-Committee.

A. Applications for membership

a) The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that the Presbyterian Church in the Sudan and the Episcopal Baptist Community in Africa, now associate member churches, be granted the status of full membership in the WCC.

b) The Sub-Committee had received reports from staff on visits made (according to the policy established in February 1984) to the Moravian Church of Nicaragua and the United Presbyterian Church in Brazil, which had applied for membership. The Sub-Committee noted that the reports confirmed the wisdom of the policy agreed to regarding such visits before churches are received into membership. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Central Committee that

i) the Moravian Church in Nicaragua be accepted as a full member church of the WCC;

ii) the United Presbyterian Church in Brazil be accepted as an associate member church of the WCC.

B. Application for affiliation

The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to the Central Committee the the Sudan Council of Churches be accepted as an associate council of the WCC.

7. REPORT OF THE NOMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

In addition to the applications for membership and affiliation, Dr Talbot reported that the Nominations Sub-Committee had dealt with the following matters:

A. Responsibilities of committees and working groups

The Sub-Committee had reviewed and approved the memorandum on this subject. It was noted that the responsibilities of the Central Committee should include the election of the General Secretary. With this addition, it was agreed to submit the memorandum to the Central Committee as a statement of the respective responsibilities and relationships of committes and working groups (Appendix III).

B. Membership of Central Committee

On the recommendation of the Sub-Committee, the Executive Committee agreed to nominate Ms Helen Bhengra, United Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, as a member of Central Committee in the place of Ms Elbina Tudu, who had died. It was further agreed to suggest that Central Committee send a letter of condolence to the family and church of Ms Tudu.

C. Membership and Officers of Unit Committees

Dr Talbot introduced lists of the proposed membership of the three Unit Committees, the Committee on the General Secretariat and the Finance Committee of Central Committee. The lists were reviewed and a number of changes made. It was agreed to present the amended lists to Central Committee. It was noted that further consultation was needed with regard to the moderators and vice-moderators of the committees in order to present a balanced slate and it was agreed to authorize the Officers to bring a proposal to Central Committee.

D. Commissions and working groups

Dr Talbot presented lists of the proposed membership of commissions and working groups which had been prepared according to the criteria, considerations and other decisions of the Executive Committee in February, in particular:

- the priority for persons with experience and expertise related to the work of the sub-unit;
- continuity with the previous working group;
- the need to include persons from churches not represented on the Central Committee;
- regional and confessional balance, and representation of women and youth;
- inclusion of Central Committee members in each working group;
- adequate balances in the total list per Unit.

It was noted that only moderators, and not other officers, were to be appointed by the Central Committee. Each working group would elect its other officers. These further elections should take into account the need for proper balances among all officers of all working groups.

The General Secretary stressed that these were working committees and not representative in the same way as Central Committee. It was noted that some 190 churches were represented in committees, including 52 not represented in Central Committee. Vacancies had been left in some groups to allow for experts on particular issues to be invited to some meetings.

A number of changes were accepted and some additions were proposed in order to improve balances. Some remaining problems were referred to staff for further discussion and it was agreed to authorize the Officers to finalize the lists for presentation to Central Committee.

E. Joint Working Group

It was noted that the Officers, as authorized by the Executive Committee in February, had appointed the following to be the WCC members of the Joint Working Group:

Rev. Jacques Maury, Reformed Church of France (WCC moderator)
Rev. Dr Donald Anderson, Anglican Church of Canada
Ms Marie Assaad, Coptic Orthodox Church, Egypt
Rev. Jacques Blanc, Reformed Church of France
Rev. Dr Arie Brouwer, Reformed Church in America
Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann, Evangelical Church in Germany (Lutheran)
Ms Gloria Guzman, United Church of Christ in the Philippines
Metropolitan John of Helsinki, Orthodox Church of Finland
Rt Rev. Misaeri Kauma, Church of Uganda
Prof. Todor Sabev, Bulgarian Orthodox Church
Rev. Dr Julio de Santa Ana, Evangelical Methodist Church in Uruguay
Ms Jean Skuse, Uniting Church in Australia.

8. SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

In a closed session, Mr van Drimmelen outlined the history of the PCR Special Fund and the criteria on which grants were made. Only money earmarked for the Special Fund was distributed through it. A number of guidelines had also been established: in view of the priority given to the situation in Southern Africa, 50% of the available funds should be allocated to organizations in that area; of the remainder, two-thirds should be given to organizations of the racially oppressed and the rest to support groups; government grants should never exceed 50% of the total receipt for the Special Fund.

Mr van Drimmelen reported that, following the action of the Executive Committee in February, the Officers had appointed the following group of experts to make recommendations regarding grants from the Special Fund:

Ms Annathaie Abayasekera, Church of Ceylon, Sri Lanka
Mr Carlos Benedeto, Methodist Church, Argentina
Mr Kevin Cook, Anglican Church, Australia
Ms Annette Hutchins-Felder, United Methodist Church, USA
Rt Rev. Henry Okullu, Church of the Province of Kenya
Rev. Rein J. van der Veen, Reformed Churches in the Netherlands.

The list of grants proposed by this ad hoc group was presented.

Dr McCloud opposed the proposed grant to the Washington Office on Africa, which had already been supported by the Special Fund for five years. After discussion, Dr Love proposed, and the Executive Committee agreed, that the grant to the Washington Office on Africa for 1984 be approved but that the Office should not receive funding in future years. With this reservation, the Executive Committee agreed to approve grants in the total amount of US$ 400,000 (see Appendix IV).

It was agreed that there should be an embargo on the public announcement of the grants until mid-September so that information might be received by the member churches prior to such announcement.

Ms Skuse expressed the appreciation of the Executive Committee for the work of Mr van Drimmelen and the PCR staff in the absence on sick leave of the Director.

9. REPORT OF THE FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr McCloud spoke of the problem of the inseparability of programme and finance. It was not the intention of the Finance Sub-Committee to make decisions about programme but such decisions had to be made elsewhere if the Finance Sub-Committee was to be able to do its work effectively. He then presented the report of the Sub-Committee as follows:

1. Introductory Report to the Central Committee

The Finance Sub-Committee gave attention to the following items which will receive major consideration in the Central Committee:

a) 1983 Financial Report
b) Sixth Assembly Financial Report
c) 1985 budget
d) Ecumenical Centre Expansion

Another item that has been reviewed by the Sub-Committee and which will require consideration by the Finance Committee is the Financial Responsibility of Membership. It is proposed that this issue also be referred to General Secretariat Committee of the Central Committee.

2. 1984 Financial Situation

Although it is too early to predict the financial outcome for 1984, at the end of June, the accounts show we are well within the budget, mainly on the salaries and related charges line. In some cases, this is due to staff positions that remained vacant for a certain period of time during the first half of 1984.

So far as income is concerned, the actual income received to date represents 91% of expenses incurred at this time against 78% at the same time last year. The US dollar has remained strong, well over the expected rate of exchange on which the budget was based.

3. Auditors for the 1984 Accounts

At its last meeting, the Audit Committee expressed its satisfaction with the services and assistance provided to the WCC by the Auditors Ernst & Whinney S.A. for the 1983 accounts.

On the advice of the Audit Committee, the Finance Sub-Committee recommends that Ernst & Whinney be appointed as auditors for the 1984 financial year.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

4. Investment Advisory Group

In its February 1984 meeting, the Executive Committee requested that one or two additional names of women candidates be brought to the Executive Committee at this meeting.

Regretfully no nomination is possible at this time. The Sub-Committee recommends that authority be delegated to the Officers for this appointment so that these additional member(s) could participate in the work of the Investment Advisory Group as soon as possible.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

5. Consideration of Financial Implications of Staff Appointments

All staff appointments proposed are within the 1984 and 1985 budgets.

6. Cost of Living Review and Staff Salaries

According to Regulation III 1.06 of the WCC Staff Rules and Regulations:

> "The cost of living index in Geneva shall be reviewed twice a year as at December 31 and June 30. If the cost of living has increased by 4% or more since the last revision, the salary scale may be adapted effective as from April 1 and October 1."

At the Executive Committee meeting in February 1983 it was accepted that the new cost of living index established in Geneva in December 1982 would be the new point of reference for all future cost of living calculations. At the date of the last increase (31 December 1982), this index was 100. On 30 June 1984

this index was at 105.5 an increase of 5.5% since 31 December 1982.

The Finance Sub-Committee recommends that compensation for this inflation be granted, effective 1 October 1984, in the following manner:

i) that the WCC family allowances, unchanged since 1979, be increased by SFr 50 per child per month;

ii) that the cost of the increase of the family allowances be deducted from the total cost of the 5.5% increase and the balance be added as a per capita lump sum to the salary scales.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

7. Elements of the 1985 Budget

a) Contributions to the Emergency Reserve:

The Sub-Committee received a report on the situation of the reserves of the Council and agreed that the level of funds available in case of emergency was sufficient. It is therefore recommended that no contributions from the sub-units to the Emergency Reserve be made in 1985.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

b) Seventh Assembly Reserve:

The Executive Committee agreed in its February meeting that any surplus remaining in the Sixth Assembly Reserve be transferred to the Seventh Assembly Reserve. The amount available is SFr 365,000. It is recommended that this amount be considered as the 1985 contribution to the reserve by the WCC and that no further contribution be required in 1985.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

8. Seventh Assembly Funding

The Sub-Committee received a report on the financing of the Seventh Assembly. On the basis of the actual figures of the Sixth Assembly, the Sub-Committee recommends that the Executive Committee reaffirm

- that churches should be informed that part of the responsibility attached to being members of the WCC is to support travel and accommodation costs of their own delegates to the Assembly;
- that churches should further be asked to start contributing to the WCC's Seventh Assembly Reserve as soon as possible.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

The Finance Committee will bring a fuller statement on the financing of the Seventh Assembly to the Central Committee.

The Sub-Committee agreed that the WCC should also make annual contributions to the Seventh Assembly Reserve at the level of SFr 300,000 a year.

9. Financial Responsibility of Membership

The Sub-Committee recommend that the Assembly Finance Committee's recommendation that "a statement of the financial responsibilities of membership" be drawn up "with a view to its ultimate inclusion in the Rules of the World Council of Churches" be referred to the Finance and General Secretariat Committees of the Central Committee.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

10. Sale of WCC Plot of Land

The WCC owns a 10,000 sq. meter plot of land adjacent to the "Chateau" in Grand Saconnex.

The communal authorities of Grand Saconnex have requested the scheduling of the "Chateau" as a historical monument. As a consequence a zone around the Chateau will probably to protected against building, that includes part of the land owned by the WCC.

WCC expressed its reservations to the State of Geneva regarding any restrictions of its rights to build on the property. It also immediately contacted the Grand Saconnex authorities to inform them of its intention to build apartments for its staff in the near future and therefore to sell the existing property to an international organisation or foreign mission (only offices for such organizations can be built on the property) in order to purchase equivalent land in an area where construction of apartment buildings is possible.

The Commune then expressed interest in purchasing the land and asked WCC to make an offer.

Under the circumstances, the Sub-Committee recommends that the Executive Committee

a) authorize the WCC to put the property on the market and to make an offer to the Commune on the basis of the best bid obtained on the market and

b) authorize the Officers to sell the property provided the proceeds of that sale be for capital reinvestment in property at an appropriate time.

The Executive Committee accepted this recommendation.

Dr McCloud expressed the appreciation of the Finance Sub-Committee for the work of the Finance staff.

10. REVIEW OF CENTRAL COMMITTEE PROGRAMME

Mr Perkins presented the draft agenda and timetable for the Central Committee, including plans for the orientation session. It was noted that mixed groups would include both new and former members of Central Committee; one staff member would be assigned to each group as a resource person. It was agreed that, at least for this first meeting of the new Central Committee, separate small groups would be formed for advisers and other participants. It was agreed to propose to Central Committee that the closed session on staffing and nominations should take place on Saturday afternoon instead of Sunday. With this amendment, the proposed programme was approved.

11. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Moderator referred to the problem of the NGO Forum to be held, in connection with the end of the UN Decade for Women, in Nairobi, 8-17 July 1985. The Executive Committee agreed to recommend to Central Committee that its meeting be postponed for one week and held 21 July to 1 August 1985.*

It was further agreed to hold meetings of the Executive Committee on the following dates (including days of arrival and departure):

1985	3-9 February
	17-20 July *
1986	9-15 March
	14-20 September

* After further discussion in the Central Committee, the Officers decided on the following dates:

Executive Committee: 24-27 July 1985
Central Committee: 28 July - 8 August 1985.

Both meetings would be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

12. CLOSING ACTIONS

The Moderator closed the meeting with prayer.

ATTENDANCE

PRESENT

Presidents:	Dame R. Nita Barrow
	Dr Marga Bührig
	Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mar Gregorios
	Most Rev. W.P.K. Makhulu
	Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson
Officers:	Rev. Dr Heinz J. Held (Moderator)
	Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot (Vice-Moderator)
	Rev. Dr Philip A. Potter (General Secretary)
Members:	Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
	Mr Harry A. Ashmall
	Bishop Athanasios of Beni Souef
	Mr Bena-Silu
	Ms Joyce Kaddu
	Archbishop Kirill of Viborg
	Dr Janice Love
	Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud
	Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan
	Rev. Meinrad Piske
	Ms Jean Skuse
	Rev. Gunnar Stalsett
	Dr Aaron Tolen
	Bishop Karoly Toth
Staff:	Rev. Dr Samuel Amirtham
	Rev. S. Wesley Ariarajah
	Ms Marie B. Assaad
	Rev. Dr Ulrich Becker
	Ms Midge Béguin-Austin
	Rev. Ans van der Bent
	Rev. Jacques Blanc
	Rev. Coen Boerma
	Rev. Dr Arie R. Brouwer
	Rev. Théodore Buss
	Ms Gwen Cashmore
	Mr Patrick Coïdan
	Mr Trevor Davies
	Mr Robert van Drimmelen
	Ms Ana de Garcia
	Rev. Dr Günther Gassmann
	Rev. Dr Hans Goedeking
	Rev. Dr David Gosling
	Mr Victor Hsu
	Mr Ninan Koshy
	Mr Nicholas Maro
	Rev. Angel Peiro
	Rev. William A. Perkins
	Mr Hugh Pettingell
	Dr Eric Ram

Staff (continued)	Prof. Todor Sabev Rev. Carlos Sintado Rev. Dr Eugene Stockwell Fr George Tsetsis Mr Archibald Turnbull Rev. Bärbel von Wartenberg Mr Erich Weingärtner
Interpreters:	Ms Ilse Friedeberg Ms Roswitha Ginglas-Poulet Mr Mstislav Voskresenski
Minute writer:	Ms Auriol Burrows
Administration:	Ms Rosemary Green

APOLOGIES

Honorary President:	Rev. Dr W.A. Visser 't Hooft
Presidents:	Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel Patriarch Ignatios IV of Antioch and All the East
Officer:	Metropolitan Chrysostomos of Myra (Vice-Moderator)
Members:	Metropolitan Antonie of Transsylvania Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo

APPENDIX II

MEMBERSHIP OF SUB-COMMITTEES

Sub-committee on Programme

Metropolitan Chrysostomos (Moderator) (not present)
Metropolitan Dr Paulos Mär Gregorios (Acting Moderator)
Dr Marga Bührig
Bishop Dr Johannes W. Hempel (not present)
Patriarch Ignatios IV (not present)
Ms Joyce Kaddu
Dr Janice Love
Rev. Dr S.A.E. Nababan
Rev. Meinrad Piske
Bishop Karoly Toth

Sub-committee on Finance

Rev. Dr J. Oscar McCloud (Moderator)
Metropolitan Antonie (not present)
Mr Harry A. Ashmall
Mr Bena-Silu
Most Rev. W.P.K. Makhulu
Ms Jean Skuse
Rev. Gunnar Stalsett
Very Rev. Dr Lois Wilson

Sub-committee on Staffing and Nominations

Dr Sylvia Talbot (Moderator)
Ms Annathaie Abayasekera
Bishop Athanasios
Dame R. Nita Barrow
Rev. Puafitu Faa'alo (not present)
Archbishop Kirill
Dr Aaron Tolen

APPENDIX III

THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS

1. Central Committee, which is elected by the Assembly, is the governing authority of the WCC between Assemblies, and

   a) implements policies accepted by the Assembly;

   b) determines general policy to be followed in the work of the programme units and the programmes and services directly related to the General Secretariat;

   c) determines programme priorities and their review;

   d) appoints all other committees, working groups, commissions and boards;

   e) adopts the budget of the Council;

   f) appoints staff (Grades 6-10) on recommendation of the General Secretary;

   g) elects the General Secretary.

2. Executive Committee, which is elected by the Central Committee, and between meetings of the latter:

   a) acts on behalf of Central Committee;

   b) carries out the decisions of Central Committee;

   c) takes provisional decisions in circumstances of special emergency or on matters delegated to it by the Central Committee.

3. Unit Committees, one for each of the three programme units, are composed of approximately one fourth of the members of Central Committee and three representatives of each commission or working group in the unit, who are full voting members of the Unit Committee. Their tasks are to:

   a) review and give direction to the policies of the unit in accordance with the general policies determined by Central Committee;

   b) recommend to Central Committee the central thrusts of the work of each unit and its sub-units;

   c) receive and evaluate reports from the sub-units and coordinate their programmes;

   d) make recommendations to Central Committee on matters referred to them.

4. The Committee on the General Secretariat is a reference committee of Central Committee which considers those matters

of general concern referred to it, including the reports of the programmes and services directly related to the General Secretariat. Proposed terms of reference for this committee are found as an appendix to the report on the General Secretariat.* It is composed of approximately one fourth of the members of Central Committee.

5. Working Groups, Commissions and Boards are appointed by the Central Committee and have 15-30 members (depending on the sub-unit) and

   a) develop and review programmes of their sub-unit in accordance with the major thrusts and policies adopted by the Central Committee, and within available financial resources;

   b) advise, report and make recommendations to the Unit Committees;

   c) take actions as they may be authorized by Central Committee.

* The terms of reference for the Committee on the General Secretariat as approved by the Central Committee are to be found in the Minutes of the Central Committee, Geneva, July 1984, in the Report of the Committee on the General Secretariat.

SPECIAL FUND TO COMBAT RACISM

LIST OF ALLOCATIONS FOR 1984

I. GROUPS OF THE RACIALLY OPPRESSED

	US Dollars	
A F R I C A		
*African National Congress (ANC)	70.000	
*Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (PAC)	30.000	
*South West African Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO)	100.000	200.000
A S I A		
The Research Action Institute for Koreans in Japan	10.000	10.000
A U S T R A L I A A N D P A C I F I C		
*Aboriginal and Islander Development Fund	9.000	
Jitapurru Community School	4.000	
*Kimberley Land Council	9.000	
Tangentyere Women's Council	4.000	
Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Christians (A.I.C.C.)	4.000	
New Caledonia		
*Independence Front of New Caledonia	8.000	
Papua New Guinea		
PNG-Aboriginal & Islander Cultural Society	4.000	42.000
E U R O P E		
Federal Republic of Germany		
*Interessengemeinschaft der mit Ausländern verheirateten deutschen Frauen e.V. - Verband bi-nationaler Familien und Partnerschaften (IAF)	4.000	
Central Council of German Sinti and Roma	8.000	
France		
*Association des Travailleurs Haïtiens Immigrés en France (ATHAIF)	4.000	
*Union Générale des Travailleurs Sénégalais en France	4.000	
United Kingdom		
*Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants	4.000	
*Southall Rights	4.000	28.000

N O R T H A M E R I C A

Canada		
Innu Kanantuapatshet (Innu Nat. Council)	6.000	
*Kaska Dene Council	6.000	
Nova Scotia Native Women's Association	5.000	
USA		
*Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California	5.000	
*International Indian Treaty Council	5.000	
Inuit Circumpolar Conference	10.000	
National Anti-Klan Network	5.000	
*Ogalala Lakota Legal Rights Fund	5.000	
United League of Holmes County	5.000	52.000
		332.000

II. S U P P O R T G R O U P S

		US Dollars
Australia	-African Liberation Trust Fund	4.000
Austria	-*Anti-Apartheid Movement in Austria	3.000
Belgium	-*Aktiekomitee Zuidelijk Afrika (AKZA)	1.500
	-*Comité contre le Colonialism et l'Apartheid	1.500
	-*Service Social des Etrangers	3.000
Canada	-Canadians concerned about Southern Africa	2.000
Fed.Rep. Germany	-*Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAB) and Information Center on Southern Africa (ISSA)	4.000
France	-*Mouvement Anti-Apartheid de France (M.A.A.)	4.000
Ireland	-*Irish Anti-Apartheid Movement	4.000
Japan	-*Japan Anti-Apartheid Committee	5.000
Philippines	-Nat. Council of Churches in the Philippines- Program for Minority Concerns	5.000
Switzerland	-*Swiss-German Anti-Apartheid Movement	2.000
	-*Swiss Anti-Apartheid Movement, Geneva Section	2.000
United Kingdom	-Wales Anti-Apartheid Movement	3.000
USA	-*American Committee on Africa	10.000
	-Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law	4.000
	-*Washington Office on Africa	10.000
		68.000

TOTAL: US $ 400.000

*Movements which received grants before